

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-97. (Canceled)

98. (Previously Presented) A method of screening a monoclonal antibody for activity in inducing clearance of an amyloid deposit of A $\beta$ , comprising:

combining the amyloid deposit, a monoclonal antibody which binds to an epitope within amino acid residues 1-7 of A $\beta$ , and microglial cells bearing Fc receptors in a medium in vitro; and

by a series of measurements, monitoring whether a reduction in the amount of the amyloid deposit remaining in the medium occurs, as compared to a baseline measurement, a reduction in the amount of the amyloid deposit indicating the monoclonal antibody induces phagocytic clearing activity of the microglial cells against the amyloid deposit.

99. (Canceled)

100. (Previously Presented) A method of screening a monoclonal antibody for activity in inducing clearance of an amyloid deposit of A $\beta$ , comprising:

combining the amyloid deposit, a monoclonal antibody, and microglial cells bearing Fc receptors in a medium in vitro, wherein the amyloid deposit is a tissue sample from the brain of an Alzheimer's disease patient or an animal having Alzheimer's pathology; and

by a series of measurements, monitoring whether a reduction in the amount of the amyloid deposit remaining in the medium occurs, as compared to a baseline measurement, a reduction in the amount of the amyloid deposit indicating the monoclonal antibody induces phagocytic clearing activity of the microglial cells against the amyloid deposit.

101-102. (Cancelled)

103. (New) The method of claim 98, wherein the combining step comprises combining the amyloid deposit and the antibody before adding the microglial cell bearing Fc receptors.

104. (New) The method of claim 100, wherein the combining step comprises combining the tissue sample and the antibody before adding the microglial cells bearing Fc receptors.